soldiers. Throngs of them, some with fixed bayonets covered with the blood of their officers, converged on the Tauride Palace, which attracted them as the seat of the Duma and still more as the headquarters of the newly formed Soviet of Workers. Under the white colonnade of the Palace the regiments were met by Rodzianko, the stout reactionary president of the Duma, and Chkheidze, chairman of the Soviet. One regiment after another passed in front of the Palace and asked Chkheidze to admit their representatives to the Soviet, which at once became the Soviet of Workers *and Soldiers*.

Neither the Tsar nor the members of the Duma realized the meaning of these events. The Tsar believed he could save his throne by sending troops from Mogilev to reconquer Petrograd. The Duma believed it could save the monarchy by persuading Nicholas to abdicate in favor of another member of his family. Actually the Duma had as little control over events as the Tsar.

On March 14, Kronstadt revolted. The sailors massacred their officers. The Moscow garrison came into the streets to proclaim its devotion to the revolution. The Tsar left Mogilev for Tsarskoe Selo, but his train was stopped by railroad workers at a small station, Dno (Bottom), and later moved to a siding in Pskov. Actually a prisoner in his own train, Nicholas summoned Rodzianko to an audience, considering making him the head of the new Cabinet, but Rodzianko could not reach Pskov: the railroad workers refused to provide a train for him without a safe-conduct and an order from the Soviet.

On March 15, Rodzianko obtained the Soviet's permission to go to see the Tsar, but it was too late for them to discuss the appointment of a new Cabinet. In the evening the Tsar received the Duma representatives in his stranded train and agreed to abdicate in favor of his brother, Grand Duke Mikhail. The Duma circles were confident that they would stop the revolution by enthroning a new Tsar.

This plan, however, provoked outbursts of indignation among Petrograd workers and soldiers. A group of officers appeared in the Tauride Palace and told the Duma Committee that any attempt to restore the monarchy would cause violence in the garrison and endanger the lives of the officers. Even if a new Tsar were enthroned, his overthrow would be only a matter of hours. The abdication by Mikhail the next day was a pure formality that did not change the course of events an iota. The reign of the Romanovs was ended not by the abdications of Nicholas and Mikhail but by a national revolution spearheaded by the workers and soldiers in Petrograd. The deposed Tsar was brought to Tsarskoe Selo and imprisoned in a suite of rooms in his palace.

Out of these events emerged the Provisional Government and the